

Shevardnadze in Kabul

KABUL (R) — Rebels rocketed the Afghan capital Kabul for the third consecutive day Sunday, killing at least nine people as Soviet Foreign Minister Edward Shevardnadze began a visit, the official Afghan news agency reported said. Hospital sources said 53 people were seriously injured. Reuter said at least nine died when 38 rockets slammed into Kabul where Shevardnadze, who had arrived unannounced, held two rounds of talks with President Najibullah. A United Nations official said the Democratic district of the city, which houses the Soviet embassy and the Afghan Defense Ministry, was hit several times during the morning. It is from Duran-e-shahr that Afghan forces fire surface-to-surface missiles at western-backed rebels fighting government troops in the eastern border areas with Pakistan. In the afternoon, at least 25 rockets landed within a kilometre of the Continental Hotel, Kabul's only luxury hotel and where many foreign journalists stay. In an interview on Soviet television after meeting Najibullah, Shevardnadze said major changes had taken place in Afghanistan since Soviet troops withdrew earlier this year.

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Kelly underlines Jordan's key role

By Ghadeer Taha
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — U.S. Assistant Secretary of State John Kelly arrived in Amman Sunday for what has been billed as an exploratory visit aimed at discussing Middle East peace prospects and the Israeli plan for Palestinian elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"I look forward to my conversations with the leadership of this country which plays such a vital role in all of the affairs of the region," Kelly said upon arrival at Amman airport.

Kelly, a former American ambassador to Lebanon, gave little substance in his terse statement, but underlined the importance he attached to the "experience and wisdom that I know I will find here with my interlocutors."

The U.S. official, on the third and final leg of a visit which has already taken him to Israel and Egypt, was holding what were described as "informal talks" Sunday night. He is expected to be received by His Majesty King Hussein, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasim Monday.

According to an American source who preferred to remain anonymous, Kelly "wanted to get to know the people with whom he will be working" during the next four years.

Reports from Cairo said Egyptian leaders had told Kelly they

troverey from Palestinian circles for not including any meetings with Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials. He met with Palestinian notables from the occupied territories earlier this week.

The encounter, during which the Palestinians rejected the Israeli plan for elections in the occupied territories to choose representatives for talks on "limited Palestinian self-rule" pending a "final solution" to the problem, was described by the Palestinians as an "extension" of the ongoing dialogue between the U.S. and the PLO — an assertion rejected by Washington, which says that the American ambassador to Tunis is the sole authorized channel of communicating with the PLO.

However, the 13 Palestinians who met with Kelly let no doubt about their loyalty to the PLO. In petition handed over the U.S. envoy, they called on Washington to expand its dialogue with the PLO and ruled out any negotiations without PLO participation.

One of the key topics in Kelly's talks with Israeli and Egyptian leaders was the U.S.-supported election plan, proposed by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

The future of the plan, rejected by the PLO, is under question in Israel itself after Shamir's hard-line Likud bloc attached several preconditions to it but the Israeli coalition cabinet reaffirmed its endorsement of the plan in its original form.

Reports from Cairo said Egyptian leaders had told Kelly they



John Kelly

needed more information on the plan. Egypt, which has neither approved nor rejected the plan, "again specified it needed to know more and needed Israel to give a clearer picture concerning the plan," Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid told reporters upon Kelly's departure from Cairo to Amman earlier Sunday.

President Hosni Mubarak met with Kelly Saturday.

Among the clarifications that Egypt is reportedly seeking from Israel are whether the proposed elections could pave the way for a comprehensive settlement to the Palestinian problem, how free and democratic will be the election process and whether Israel would agree to international supervision of the polls.

Kelly is on his first visit to the region, after assuming office as assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asia — successor to Richard Murphy, the Reagan administration's Middle East "troubleshooter." Analysts in the region expected Kelly's

(Continued on page 2)

Jordan awaits Arab report on Lebanon

AMMAN (R) — Jordan said Saturday it would wait for a report from an Arab League peace mission to Lebanon before deciding whether to back Iraq's call for an emergency Arab summit on the war-torn country.

The mission, which included the foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, Morocco and Algeria, announced Monday that their efforts to help end Lebanon's civil war had reached a dead end.

The news prompted Iraq to call for an emergency meeting of the Arab League. But to date, only Egypt has backed Baghdad's call.

"It is too early to take a decision on Iraq's call for a summit or on the collapse of the efforts of the Arab committee before we receive its report and evaluate it," a senior Jordanian official told Reuters.

The three foreign ministers said they would send Arab leaders a report on their findings and would leave it up to them to decide what should be done next.

Both the United States and the European Community (EC) have urged the Arab League committee not to abandon its efforts.

An Arab summit in Morocco in May gave Saudi Arabia's King Fahd, Morocco's King Hassan and Algerian President Chadli Benjedid a six-month mandate to try to end the fighting in Lebanon.



Thousands of Beirut residents flee the fighting in the Lebanese capital.

Syrians fortify W. Beirut

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Syrian tanks have taken positions in west Beirut and the surrounding hills and multi-barrelled rocket launchers buttressed the frontline along the Lebanese capital's dividing green line, according to independent reports Sunday.

The movement of armour came late Saturday night and Sunday morning, during which Syrian soldiers and Lebanese militia allies were engaged in fiery artillery duels across the Lebanese capital, currency reserves are stored.

A police spokesman said the tanks, most of them Soviet-designed T-62s, rolled down the central Lebanese mountains from east Lebanon's Bekaa Valley, clogging traffic along the Beirut-Damascus highway.

They deployed on hills overlooking the capital's eastern side as well as the five-kilometre

green line that splits the city, spokesman said.

Both sectors of the city have been buzzing with rumours that Aoun's forces were planning to storm west Beirut, drive the Syrians out and seize Lebanon's central bank, where the nation's

currency reserves are stored.

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ended up in the water as shells fell around the Santa Maria were rescued, said a spokesman.

The Santa Maria's captain used a brief lull to dash out of Jounieh and sail to Larnaca, the spokesman said.

The deadly, six-hour barrage touched off night-long artillery duels that set fuel depots burning out of control in the port of Amsheet, 32 kilometres north of Beirut, the spokesman said.

The coastal bombardment

also wounded 82 people in Beirut, the surrounding mountain villages and the Bekaa Valley, according to the police.

Two young girls evacuating Lebanon were drowned Sunday when she shelled the only ship regularly serving Lebanon's beleaguered Aoun-held enclave during Saturday's artillery battles.

Thirteen other passengers who

survived the attack were

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Gold-stuffed coffin unearthed in Iraq

BAGHDAD (AP) — A stone coffin filled with gold jewellery was unearthed by archaeologists in the ancient Assyrian city of Nimrud, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported.

It was the second discovery of a gold-laden burial in Nimrud this year.

The agency quoted Muaddad Saeed, Iraq's director of antiquities, as saying the find included "hundreds of gold ornaments and pieces of jewellery."

He said they were believed to belong to Queen Ninni Shomi Marmani, the wife of King Assurnasirpal II, who ruled from 884-858 B.C.

The coffin, or sarcophagus, was found at a depth of four metres and tablets in wedge-shaped cuneiform writing also were associated with the royal burial, Saeed said.

Nimrud, the military capital of the ancient Assyrian empire that stretched from the Gulf to the Mediterranean, is located about 40 kilometres south of the northern Iraqi city of Mosul.

In April, Iraqi archaeologists unearthed a stone chamber at Nimrud that contained the burials of two women accompanied by more than 25 kilograms of gold jewellery, the richest such find ever made.

A stone inscription in the tomb in wedge-shaped cuneiform writing identified the women as Yabaya and Talya, possibly the daughter and grand-daughter of King Sargon, who ruled Assyria in the 8th century B.C.

The inscription also laid a curse on anyone who opened the burial chamber.

"If anyone lays his hands on my tomb or opens my grave, I pray to the gods of the nether world that his soul should roam in the scorching sun after death ... let the ghost of insomnia take hold of him for ever and ever," it said.

The gold jewellery included diadems, necklaces, belts, bracelets and anklets, and 50 pairs of earrings, as well as a bronze mirror with an enamel handle encrusted in precious stones.

Israel willing to talk to kidnappers, but not PLO

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's determination to negotiate a hostage swap with kidnappers in Lebanon contrasts with its refusal to talk with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) because it is a "terrorist" organization.

Israel has proposed exchanging about 150 Lebanese and abducted Hezbollah cleric Sheikh Abdul-Karim Obeid for three of its soldiers and 17 Western hostages believed held in Lebanon.

Despite Israel's oft-repeated vow never to capitulate to "terrorism," its policy of dealing with anyone to secure the release of captured Israeli soldiers is not new — it has even cut deals with the PLO.

It is a policy that unites Israeli leaders left and right.

"For us the saving of even one of our people is a fundamental principle," hardline Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir told a Jewish gathering at the start of his three-day visit about U.S.-PLO contacts.

"I'm convinced the terrorism thing is more a pretext than a reason," said Mark Heller of Tel Aviv University's Jaffee Centre for Strategic Studies.

Shi'ite group in Lebanon may be nuisance but clearly do not threaten Israel's existence. However the PLO represents millions of Palestinians who want a state that many Israelis fear could be a "threat."

Israeli officials fear negotiations with the PLO would legitimise Palestinian nationalism and

trigger an irrevocable process ending in a Palestinian state in the occupied territories.

"They don't want to get on that slippery slope," Heller told Reuters.

In contrast, the United States is talking to the PLO but refusing to negotiate with the kidnappers of its citizens in Lebanon.

U.S. reasoning runs opposite to that in the Israeli government. Washington believes talking to the PLO may lead to Middle East peace and stability, but dealing with kidnappers of U.S. citizens could encourage more attacks on Americans.

"Israel has one policy and we have a different policy," U.S. Assistant Secretary of State John Kelly said last week in Tel Aviv. "And that is clear."

Although he was referring to negotiations with the Lebanese kidnappers, it could just as easily refer to discussions during his three-day visit about U.S.-PLO contacts.

The different policies reflect different evaluations of the danger. The Israeli government no doubt hates violating its vows never to deal with any organization it labels "terrorist."

But in the case of groups holding Israeli hostages, it thinks the price is worth paying. In the case of broader negotiations with the PLO, it fears the political cost would be too high.

Afghan war poses tough dilemma for doctors

By Malcolm Davidson
Reuters

KABUL — At the height of the rocket attack on the Afghan capital, Red Cross doctors had to decide who to save.

A young woman, legs blown off in a rocket blast, was too badly injured to survive without hours of surgery. In the time she would have spent on the operating table several other victims might have been saved.

She was given a shot of morphine to ease the pain, put into a tent reserved for the mortally wounded and allowed to die.

George Muheim, Red Cross coordinator in Kabul, said cars and taxis were bringing in the seriously injured too fast for the two surgical teams to keep up. "This is one of the most difficult things in a war hospital. If we operate on one person for six to eight hours then we are going to allow another six to die," he said.

On that July Saturday when a shower of rockets fired by Mujahideen rebels struck Kabul, more than 35 people were killed instantly and more than 100 were injured. Ten of the injured died in hospital.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) hospital about five kilometres from the city centre was swamped with the casualties.

Many were dreadfully mutilated, cut to pieces by the shrapnel that causes most damage in the increasingly frequent rocket attacks.

The ICRC opened the hospital last October to treat the victims of the 10-year-old civil war between the Soviet-backed government and the Western-supported Mujahideen.

"We admit all war wounded that show up," Muheim said, adding that no distinction was made between soldiers, civilians or guerrillas disguised as civilians.

Treating the Mujahideen can be fraught with problems. "We

deal with it very simply. We never ask questions," said Muheim, who is from Switzerland.

The hospital is in two big villas, with a general men's ward built in the gardens out of old freight containers.

Thousands of containers, which bring food and other goods to Kabul, are put to ingenious use by Kabulis — becoming instant garages, refugee homes or roadside shops.

Most of the time there are between 80 and 90 patients in the hospital, but it can squeeze in 150.

According to United Nations figures, 281 civilians were killed in Kabul between June 25 and the end of July and almost 750 were seriously wounded.

"Some patients we get after 10 to 15 minutes. If they had not got treatment within 30 minutes or so they would have died," Muheim said.

The critical time limit for treatment is six hours. After that infection sets in, particularly in war wounds where shrapnel or bullets drive pieces of clothing and dirt deep into the body.

Unlike conventional surgery, such wounds are kept open for up to a week to make sure there is no infection.

Up to one-fifth of the pa-

tients are children.

Most are hurt by shrapnel, but some are badly burned by magnesium flares dropped by Soviet and Afghan aircraft to deflect rebel anti-aircraft missiles.

The giant Soviet IL-76 transports that bring food and weapons to the Kabul government spit out up to 150 of the flares as they spiral in and out of the airport.

Sometimes the flares, which leave a herringbone pattern of smoke in the sky, are still burning when they hit the ground or fail to ignite until found by inquisitive children.

Muheim, a 52-year-old surgeon who has worked in war hospitals in Pakistan, on the Thai border with Cambodia and in Beirut, said the injuries in Kabul were particularly nasty.

As he was speaking, doctors examined a 13-year-old boy called Sayed whose face had been horribly mutilated by a mine explosion seven months earlier.

Blind and unable to close his mouth, he had been sent to the hospital for surgery by a visiting American plastic surgeon.

But for the boy from the Panjshir valley north of Kabul, and for many like him, the chances of normal life are slim.

Kelly arrives in Jordan

(Continued from page 1)
diplomatic experience in Lebanon to help his dealings with regional leaders.

After a meeting earlier this week with Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Kelly told reporters that his three-day visit to Israel was not in response to the hostage crisis in Lebanon.

Kelly also met with Shamir for what he described later as "a serious discussion of the peace process and the problems that are involved and the other issues between the U.S. and Israel."

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WEATHER
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

PRAYER TIMES

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His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Sunday receives participants in the World Islamic Council meetings which ended in Amman Saturday (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

Crown Prince receives WIC team

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Sunday received a delegation representing the World Islamic Council (WIC) headed by the Sudanese Field Marshal Abdul Rahman Swarreddahab, who briefed the Crown Prince on the Council's objectives and activities in the spheres of Islamic Da'wa and emergency relief in the Arab and Muslim Worlds.

Swarreddahab outlined WIC efforts in the occupied Arab territories and its charitable projects there.

Prince Hassan stressed the need to provide funds for such charitable projects through Waqf property and the investment of Zakat (alms) fund in various charitable projects, be they scientific or social, with a view to ensuring their sustainability.

Prince Hassan briefed the delegation on the objectives of the Hashemite Jordanian Charity for Relief, Development and Inter-Arab and Islamic cooperation, saying that it will support charitable activities in Jordan, such as assistance for needy families and employing local resources to supplement social and economic development in Jordan.

At the pan-Arab and Islamic levels, Prince Hassan said, the

charity will carry out the activities of the National Jordanian Committee for Solidarity with Sudan, in addition to those of the International Cultural Cooperation and Coordination Committee.

Late Saturday, the WIC's Relief and Da'wa committee concluded its meetings and adopted a number of recommendations designed to alert world public opinion and the Islamic nations and international organizations to the gravity of the situation in the occupied Arab territories.

The WIC referred to the Israeli hostilities against the Aqsa Mosque and the holy places in Jerusalem and called on all the world bodies to provide more protection and care to Al Aqsa Mosque and the holy shrines in Jerusalem.

The council also recommended the formation of a delegation, to be headed by Swarreddahab, entrusted with settling the dispute between Mauritania and Senegal.

The council welcomed the establishment of Saddam University for Islamic Sciences as a major means of spreading Islamic Da'wa and called on the university to set aside a number of seats for Muslim students from the various parts of the Islamic World.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

PUBLIC HOLIDAY: All ministries, government departments and public institutions will observe a holiday Saturday, Aug. 12, on the occasion of His Majesty King Hussein's accession to the throne, which falls on Friday, Aug. 11, according to a communiqué issued by the Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker. (Petra)

LIBYAN HEALTH AIDE IN AMMAN: Secretary General of the Libyan People's Health Committee Mustafa Zaidi arrives in Amman Thursday on a three-day visit to Jordan for talks with his Jordanian counterpart Zuhair Malhas and senior Jordanian officials on cooperation in health issues. Zaidi will visit a number of health institutions to get first-hand information on the health services in Jordan. (Petra)

PEOPLE'S ARMY: The tenth batch of the People's Army recruits in Karak Governorate Sunday launched a two-day voluntary campaign to clean and maintain Karak Castle. This voluntary activity is part of the duties of the People's Army recruits. Moreover, it coincides with the need to have the castle cleaned as a Czech team will conduct full maintenance of the citadel this year. Meanwhile, the People's Army recruits in Qasr district conducted a cleaning campaign.

LOANS FOR FARMERS: The Agricultural Credit Corporation board of directors donated JD 367,600 in loans to farmers in June. The loans assigned for farmers to finance 535 agricultural projects since early 1989 amounted to JD 1,854,305. (Petra)

MAJALI MEETS OMANI ENVOY: Public Security Department (PSD) Director General Abdul Hadi Al Majali Sunday received the Omani ambassador to Jordan and discussed with him scopes of bilateral cooperation in the field of security. (Petra)

ACCOUNTING COURSE: A total of twenty accountants employed at the Tafleeh Governorate's municipal councils have concluded a three-day course on subjects related to accounting. (Petra)

EDUCATIONAL COURSE IN TAFLEEH: A number of women from Tafleeh Sunday enrolled in an educational course at Princess Basma Centre for Social Services in Tafleeh. During the week-long course, lectures will be delivered on matters related to health, educational, and social fields as well as public safety. (Petra)

LIBRARY CLASSIFICATION: A total of twenty-five people Sunday enrolled in a training programme on indexing as well as library classification and documentation at the University of Yarmouk. The two-month long programme is designed to raise the participants' standard and expertise. (J.T.)

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

* A plastic arts exhibition by the Student Affairs Department's Painting Club of the Yarmouk University at the Housing Bank Art Gallery.

* An exhibition of cartoons by the late Jordanian artist Rabah Saghayyar at the Plastic Artists Association, Shmeisani.

* A photo exhibition entitled "Bedouins Today" by Japanese photographer Koji Saio at the Royal Cultural Centre.

THEATRE

* An Arabic play entitled "Thammasul Thil" (Price of a Shadow) at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.

LECTURE

* A lecture, in Arabic, entitled "The Future of Bee Breeding in Jordan" by Dr. Saifuddin Shabash at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation — 6:30 p.m.

FILM

* A French film entitled "Djell, Conte d'Aujourd'hui" at the French Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.

Palestinian refugee affairs supervisors end talks

Meeting seeks continued support for Palestinian national struggle

AMMAN (Petra) — Participants in the week-long conference of Palestinian Refugee Affairs Supervisors, Sunday called on all international and regional organisations to provide the necessary assistance for the Palestinians to help them pursue their national struggle against the Israeli occupation authorities.

At the conclusion of their meetings here, participants hailed the Palestinian uprising in the occupied Arab territories and stressed the need for continuing Arab support for the uprising under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The conferees also discussed the Arab League general secretariat report on the latest developments on the Palestinian scene and recommended the preparation of the detailed and independent working papers on the issues contained in the secretariat report.

The conference reviewed the memoranda submitted by the Arab countries hosting Palestinian refugees, on the need for a pan-Arab mass media mobilisation in support for the uprising.

On the Israeli threats to the Aqsa Mosque in the occupied Arab city of Jerusalem, the conference called for massive media mobilisation to expose the Israeli practices and their human rights violations.

The conference also discussed the services offered by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), with main

concentration on the self-help projects and the special hardship cases programmes, and stressed the need for resuming the distribution of rations to all the Palestinian refugees in the occupied Arab territories.

Also under discussion were the demographic imbalance in the occupied territories as a result of the Jewish migration from and to the occupied territories and the Israeli plans, aimed at expelling the Palestinians from their homeland and replacing them with Jews.

In this regard, the conference adopted a decision calling for a more support to the Palestinians in the occupied territories in order to enhance their steadfastness and enable them to hold to their land.

The conference was attended by representatives for Jordan, Syria, Palestine, Egypt and the Arab League.

Downpayment reduction reflects positively on housing projects

AMMAN (Petra) — Director of the Urban Development Department (UDD) Hisham Al Zagha Sunday said that the government's decision last month to reduce the downpayment payable by beneficiaries from UDD housing projects from 10 per cent to 5 per cent has reflected positively on the UDD housing projects, which witnessed an increase in the number of people wishing to benefit from these projects.

The decision will also apply to those who wish to benefit from Umm Fawwara Housing Project, which includes 1,400 housing units.

Zagha pointed out that the Housing Bank has recently reduced the

interest rates on loans to beneficiaries from the UDD housing projects from 8.5 per cent to 8 per cent with the aim of supporting the low income communities.

The decision also applies to Marka's second housing project and Russeifa's second housing project.

Zagha pointed out that the Housing Bank has recently reduced the

ACC labour ministers form 4 committees

BAGHDAD (Petra) — Labour and Social Development Ministers in the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) states Sunday signed minutes of the joint meeting that started here Saturday.

The minutes provided for the formation of four committees, one for studying the labour laws in the four countries in prepara-

tion for drawing up a unified ACC law; a second one for standardising the social security legislations; the third to study vocational training and the fourth to study the possibility of setting up an information bank.

The minutes also provided for the exchange of expertise, in-

formation and know-how and the utilisation of the available resources at the universities and technical institutions in vocational training programmes.

The minutes also provided for coordinating the respective stands of the four countries at regional and international conferences.

Jordan, N. Yemen discuss cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — Director general of the Jordan Cooperative Organisation Sunday discussed with North Yemeni secretary general of Local Councils for Cooperative Development Sadeq Abu Ras means to bolster cooperative activities.

During the meeting, they agreed to train Yemeni cadres in

the field of cooperatives and to dispatch Jordanian agricultural engineers to North Yemen to prepare a study about arable lands.

In a statement to Petra, Abu Ras said that his visit to Jordan is designed to discuss the existing fraternal relations in the agricultural field, exchange expertise, benefit from Jordan's agricultural expertise, and discuss the merging of institutions within the framework of Arab Cooperation Council (ACC).

He added that the ACC cooperative organisations made great steps in the field of cooperation.

The minutes also provided for the exchange of expertise, in-

cultural field, exchange expertise, benefit from Jordan's agricultural expertise, and discuss the merging of institutions within the framework of Arab Cooperation Council (ACC).

The spokesman said that the exchange rate, set out by the commercial banks, upon directives from the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ), will govern the RJ dealings, either on board its planes, or at the Queen Alia International Airport's free market.

The source noted that the RJ, in its interest to abide by

the government's policy aimed at stabilising the dinar's exchange rate, has maintained the official exchange rate, as announced by the CBJ, until July 12, and has accepted the Jordanian dinar for sales on board its planes, in view of the fact that the free market and the sales on board its planes are fully owned by the RJ and are considered a major source of foreign currency.

However, to avoid any specific temptations which might result from the big difference in the foreign exchange at that

Sqour, FAO director hold talks on community development programmes

AMMAN (Petra) — Ministry of Social Development Secretary General Mohammad Al Sqour Sunday discussed with director general of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) scopes of bilateral cooperation in the field of rural community development and the rural development programmes in Jordan.

The Jordanian officials also discussed the U.N. official prospects for undertaking a study on the impact of economic adjustment on the local communities, with the participation of FAO, which has been involved in similar studies.

The study is designed to draw up development programmes, upon drawing the next five-year economic and social development plan.

The two officials agreed to hold a national meeting, in which all institutions concerned with development, will take part.

Such a meeting is intended to help formulate an integrated development programme, upon drawing the next five-year economic and social development plan.

ACC health ministers discuss cooperation in drug industries

BAGHDAD (Petra) — Health ministers from the four-member Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) — Jordan, Iraq, Egypt and North Yemen — Saturday discussed scopes of cooperation in the area of national drug industries and chemicals, and agreed to unify their stands vis-a-vis foreign drug suppliers.

In a statement to Petra, Health and Social Development Minister Zuhair Malhas said a committee was formed

and entrusted with drawing up an integrated plan of action, which will be presented to the ACC states within a month.

Malhas added that the four ministers have agreed to cooperate in technical, and medical fields, particularly in the areas of expertise and know-how.

However, the minister noted, each country will draw up its perceptions of the form of such

cooperation and will convey it to the Iraqi Health Minister within a month.

The four ministers also agreed to coordinate their stands in all Arab, regional and international medical gatherings.

In this regard, an agreement was made whereby all four ministers will meet to formulate a unified stand before joining any conference.

New project to boost tourism

AMMAN (J.T.) — A new brochure is being produced by the Ministry of Tourism as a means to promote tourism in the Kingdom.

Following a meeting, proposed by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and attended by Ministry of Tourism Secretary General Nasir Atalla as well as a representative of the Private Services Development Project (PSDP) in Amman, steps were initiated to assist in the production of such a brochure.

As a result of Dutta's assignment, special attention is being devoted to the training of local printing and graphic professionals to improve the quality and the professionalism in printing.

While assisting in the design and production of the brochure, Dutta is also directing the renovation of the Ministry's existing

equipment to permit professional in-house printing as required. This is one of the activities of the project which is working to improve the quality of services in the Kingdom.

In the course of his training assignment in Jordan, Dutta has also been working with Royal Jordanian (RJ) in the preparation of a new tourist promotional brochure to be made available at RJ offices throughout the world.

The RJ brochure will be multi-lingual which will increase its value, permit expanded distribution and reach a wider audience.



Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker Sunday visits Al Bashir Hospital in Amman (Petra photo)

Premier urges NMI to improve services at Al Bashir Hospital

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker Sunday paid an inspection visit to Al Bashir Hospital, where he was briefed by its director on the services, the curative medical treatment it offers to citizens and means of developing and upgrading the levels of such services.

After a tour of the various hospital sections, Sharif Zaid

voiced concern for the need to develop the hospital and improve its curative services, in line with the directives of His Majesty King Hussein to the government.

Sharif Zaid expressed appreciation to all the hospital's medical staff for their efforts, saying that they perform their duties efficiently.

The prime minister called on the National Medical Institution (NMI) to improve the hospital's situation and to perform the necessary maintenance within the framework of an integrated programme, which should be implemented as soon as possible.

The prime minister was accompanied on the visit by the NMI Director General.

Dinar reboards RJ flights

AMMAN (Petra) — The Royal Jordanian (RJ) will accept the Jordanian dinar, in addition to the major foreign currencies, aboard its planes as of Monday, Aug. 7, according to an RJ spokesman Sunday.

The spokesman said that the exchange rate, set out by the commercial banks, upon directives from the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ), will govern the RJ dealings, either on board its planes, or at the Queen Alia International Airport's free market.

However, to avoid any specific temptations which might result from the big difference in the foreign exchange at that

time, RJ decided to limit the sales on board its planes only — and not at the free market — in the foreign currency, in coordination with the authorities concerned, particularly the CBJ.

"The cancellation of this provisional measure, as of Monday, comes in line with the wise policy adopted by the CBJ and the financial measures taken to stabilise the exchange rate of the dinar, which is a positive indicator of the Jordanian financial policy," the statement said.

American bonds to be issued by Jordan for low-income housing

AMMAN (Petra) — The Finance Ministry has agreed to float in American financial markets bonds worth \$20 million in the name of the government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan guaranteed by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

The amount will be reloaned to the Housing Bank, which finances low-income housing projects in Jordan. The bank has financed the first and second Urban Developments Projects, in addition to other housing projects carried out by private-sector investors.

The bonds will be issued for the Jordanian government by Weber Straye, an American financial company, at a static annual rate of 8.75 per cent. The repayment

period will be 30 years, including a 10-year grace period during which no repayments shall be made.

However, following the first ten years, the amount will be paid in equal installments.

In 1986, the government floated bonds worth \$15 million in the United States and reloaned it to the Housing Bank in line with the government's policy to provide proper housing to limited and low-income communities.

Badran meets 2 envoys

AMMAN (Petra) —

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
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Enlighten the voters

WITH the date of the projected national elections fast approaching, the election fever among Jordanians is also fast rising. It is now expected that the number of candidates will swell to unprecedented heights and the campaigning accompanying the election process will likewise attain higher than ever pitch. There is no wonder that this phenomenon is happening. After all Jordanians are hungry to exercise this inalienable right and look forward with great zeal to the next opportunity when their votes would play a pivotal role in the politics of the country on both domestic and international levels.

Clearly, therefore, the stakes in the anticipated elections are great, and Jordanian voters would want very much to be fully acquainted with the candidates and what they truthfully stand for. The country owes them that much and there is no better or more effective way to accomplish this vital need than to use Jordanian Television for that purpose. What is suggested here is to devote a daily afternoon programme, let us say of two hours, during which the candidates would debate among themselves on issues important and relevant to the Jordanian electorate. This way, the Jordanian voters would have at least an opportunity to know the man or women they could be voting for and have an occasion to appraise his or her intellect and views on matters that affect the lives of Jordanians, be they political, economic or otherwise.

Short of such an arrangement, many Jordanian voters would be literally voting in the dark. As we want them to exercise their voting rights intelligently and meaningfully, and as the issues affecting Jordan and Jordanians are complex and varied, a deliberate attempt must be made to educate the Jordanian voters with these issues and with the people who claim a right to pursue them on behalf of their supporters.

In this context, it would be necessary to offer such an educational programme to Jordanians free of charge as a public service. And the sooner this process begins the better it would be for the entire country. With the projected date for the elections set now for mid-November, there is indeed little time left to educate Jordanian voters on the subjects and personalities which will dominate the elections. The Ministry of Interior would be well-advised therefore to speedup the preparatory process in order to give voters the optimum opportunity to get ready for it properly.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

AN editorial in Al Ra'i Arabic daily Sunday calls on the world community to force Israel to abstain from carrying out acts of abduction and repressive measures against the innocent people of Palestine and Lebanon. Since its abduction of the Shi'ite leader in southern Lebanon, the whole world in general and the U.S. administration in particular have been preoccupied with its consequences; and it is time for the Jewish state to take a pledge never to repeat such action that can only escalate tension and trigger more violence in our region, said Al Ra'i daily. The paper said that the Jewish state should halt its repressive measures against the Palestinian people as well for the sake of paving the ground for peace. It seems that Israel, faced with an irrepressible intifada and continued Palestinian resistance, and with an intention of escaping from world pressure to make peace with the Palestinians, has resorted to abduction and repression, said the paper. It noted that nothing short of an international conference where Israel will be forced to succumb to the requirements of peace can help bring stability to the Middle East. Israel, it added, can never escape from the moment of truth although it can dodge around for a while, and it should understand that terrorism is no substitute for peace. The paper reiterated the Arab Nation's total condemnation of all forms of terrorism and counter-terrorism, and said that the Arabs are quite ready for a permanent peace.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily urges all concerned authorities in Jordan to properly examine the question of emigration of Jordanians. Salih Abdur Samad says that long queues of people line the street in front of a foreign embassy in Amman daily awaiting their turn to get a visa of some kind and travel abroad. The writer says that finalising a procedure for an immigrant visa costs no less than JD 150 in foreign currency. An applicant has to spend money on endorsing certificates, on medical examinations and paying fees to get all the papers ready for the immigration procedure, he says. This is a dissatisfactory phenomenon in our country and calls for the concerned authorities to launch an awareness campaign to curb continued emigration from Jordan and the continued drain of foreign exchange which is badly needed for development under the present hard circumstances in Jordan, the writer adds. He says that something must be done in this regard while keeping the option open for Jordanians to travel for work abroad.

Sawt Al Shaab daily comments on John Kelly's current tour in the Middle East and says that the U.S. envoy who is coming to Jordan Sunday had stated that he was carrying no plan for peace in the region. What Kelly has heard in Cairo will be repeated in Amman, and that is totally different from the views of the Israeli leaders who in the past week launched a media campaign spreading Zionist ideas and defending Israeli repressive measures in the occupied Arab lands, the paper noted. It said that Kelly and the U.S. administration should realise that the Arabs seek peace based on justice, and one that can be brought about through an international peace conference which can put an end to the whole Arab-Israeli conflict and restore Palestinian people's rights. All the Arab countries, said the paper, are in agreement on this method of achieving peace; and there can be no chance for Kelly to succeed in his mission except by persuading Israel to respond to that cause.

By Ian Black

SOME LUCKY countries have silly seasons at this time of year, but another August in the Middle East brings little in the way of light relief. Israel's kidnapping of a militant Shi'ite religious leader in South Lebanon and the reported execution of the American hostage William R. Higgins by the Iranian-backed Hezbollah organisation have suddenly created a world-class drama which is unlikely to have a happy end, whichever way you look at it.

Lebanon is like that: "What's a Druze and who gives a damn?" a grizzled U.S. television producer was once heard to drawl, when some bizarre new twist of sectarian alliance and carnage in the Shouf mountains confused him beyond patience. Yet Western hostages, including Britain's Terry Waite, are still chained to radiators in Baalbeck and Beirut's southern suburbs and three Israeli soldiers are held captive by the Hezbollahis. So when Israel starts to play dirty, the world sits up angrily and takes notice. Sanctimonious? Perhaps. Or maybe just common sense.

Israel is good at things like that: the same people who brought you the Entebbe rescue and the assassination of the PLO's Abu Jihad in Tunis last year — the soldiers and secret agents of what a perceptive Diaspora Jew once affectionately called "my little gangster state" — can still do a nice fine in derring-do based on precise intelligence and strong nerves. Chutzpa, they call it in Hebrew.

There may well be considerable logic to the Israeli operation — although Lebanese sources insist that the sheikh has little sway value. But the furious international reaction to the kidnapping is in part a measure of just how unpopular Israel has become in the last couple of years.

While the Palestinian intifada rages in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and the idea of a search for real peace looks like such a bad joke, who can be surprised if Israel attracts so little sympathy? It is this yawning gap between

Hollow talk and horror tactics

declaration and intention that lies at the heart of Israel's decline. Generations of Israelis were brought up by their Middle East experts — those famous ones who "really knew" their enemies — to distinguish between Arab rhetoric and reality between what was declared in public by Nasser, Assad, or Arafat and what was said for domestic consumption.

Arab leaders might say they wanted peace, the Israeli argument rang down deafeningly over the years, but they wanted war. Israel itself is blessed with a prime minister who is long on rhetoric and short on hope. Yitzhak Shamir's whole personality has been moulded by the struggle against Arab hostility, from his days as a leader of the Stern Gang in the final days of the British mandate, through his experiences as an operations man for the Mossad secret service. He is a leader whose instinct is to fight because peace is impossible. Yet he keeps saying that he really wants peace.

And what better evidence could he supply than by meeting, first secretly and then amid massive media attention, a West Bank lawyer who said that he had reported to PLO headquarters in Tunis on the talks with the Israeli prime minister.

"You forgot about the PLO," a cartoonist had Mr. Shamir twirling at his Palestinian interlocutor, "and I'll forget about the Likud." Cartoons are simpler than life. They are also funnier. Mr. Shamir's proposal for holding elections in the West Bank was intended to provide an escape route from the corner into which Israel had been pushed by the intifada. More hawkish (or less diplomatic) members of his own Likud Party, led by the bullish Ariel Sharon, forced him to say what he really meant: that he had no intention of dealing with Yasser Arafat, of allowing

the world to sit up and take notice. Sanctimonious? Perhaps. Or maybe just common sense.

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While the Palestinian intifada rages in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and the idea of a search for real peace looks like such a bad joke, who can be surprised if Israel attracts so little sympathy? It is this yawning gap between

the creation of an independent Palestinian state, or of making any territorial concessions whatsoever in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The pressure of the Likud hawks has created a new word in Hebrew political terminology. *Hishukim*, in standard usage, are the metal hoops that hold the wooden sections of a barrel together. In Likud lexicography, the mean binding Mr. Shamir to his ideology of Greater Israel, of resisting any advances by the PLO, ignoring Arafat's deepening dialogue with the U.S., keeping calm and hoping for better times.

Yet Shamir says he wants peace. So does Yitzhak Rabin, the Labour Party's defence minister in the rickety national unity government.

Rabin has recently started to make a distinction between "PLO-Tunis" and Palestinians in the occupied territories. Thus the determination seems to be slipping: Rabin, like Shamir, knows that the distinction is untenable and ultimately meaningless. After 20 months of the intifada, with the sacrifices that have brought the Palestinians more sympathy and attention than 20 years of often bloody armed struggle, there really is no other partner for Israel except the PLO. To imagine otherwise is no more than self-delusion.

Jordan gave a timely reminder this week of just how much things have changed since last summer, when it severed ties with the West Bank and decided that the PLO could finally go it alone. Jordan accused Israel of deliberately devaluing the Jordanian dinar and trying to export the intifada across the river.

Yet some of Israel's brightest minds now do little else than devote themselves to proving that none of this is true. Diplomats are under instructions simply not

to listen when their American counterparts report on the progress of the dialogue with the PLO, which so shook Israel when it began last December. U.S. hesitation in condemning last month's incident when a lone Palestinian from Gaza sent 16 passengers hunting to their death on a bus that was forced off the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv highway was seized upon as evidence of the sombre depths to which a once loyal and supportive ally has sunk.

America believes the PLO, or at least recognises that it has no alternative but to believe it: the organisation insists repeatedly that it wants an honourable peace; that the terrorism that so marred its cause for so many years is a thing of the past; that its weapons today are the stone, the petrol bomb and international sympathy; that its goal is to drive the Jewish state into the sea.

Ignoring this change, attested by Israel's own intelligence community but studiously ignored by its political leaders, is to live a lie.

None of this makes the PLO a troop of boy scouts, but it cannot be, as Shamir would have his people and the world believe, that Arafat simultaneously threatens everyone and represents no one.

As the intifada continues, dominated still by the mainstream nationalists of Fatah and the leftists of the Democratic and Popular Fronts, the voice of the hardliners is becoming steadily louder. The bearded extremists of Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement — ideological cousins of those Lebanese Hezbollahis who want to destroy Israel and replace it with a Muslim Palestine — are calling the shots more and more these days. No one should forget that men like the kidnapped Sheikh Obeid graduated from a school of hard knocks and came to prominence when Israel invaded Lebanon in 1982. Knowing your enemy is one thing. Making peace with him is still quite another — The Guardian.

and Development.

"The real losers in the 1990s and beyond are those areas, especially Africa, where the process of economic integration is yet to be fully consolidated," Adedeji said.

He and other proponents of a unified Africa argue that unless the diverse continent is able to deal and bargain collectively on trade and other economic matters, it could end up worse off than now.

African states hope that integration and cooperation in transport, communications, industry, energy, agriculture and other projects would ease pressures on national coffers as they pool resources for multi-country ventures.

The formation of an Arab Maghreb Union last February means there is no sub-region now without an economic grouping.

But most of these have suffered slippage in timetables for integration. Kenya's *Nation* newspaper warned last month that the prospects of political and economic unity remained at best hazy.

Divisions between Francophone and Anglophone Africa were as wide as ever, territorial disputes were common and an obsession with national interests was as fervent as ever, it said.

The steering committee proposals adopted at the recent summit underscored the challenges ahead, declaring a need for "sincere political will."

OPEN FORUM

'Natives' vs. natives

ALLOW me to charge to the attack since I cannot find a milder way to start this written protest. After four years of teaching in Amman, my batteries are full.

I vehemently and unreservedly object to the use of the words "native speakers" in school advertisements to your newspaper. I am not a native of Britain or America but (surprise!) I have taught English to Arab children at a so-called English school.

A good number of "native" speakers of English who now teach the language and its literature do not come to this country as fully qualified professionals. They come for other reasons, viz. marriage to Arab men or as nannies.

They end up teaching English to our kids — and feeling, oh so professional about it. They probably wouldn't get hired as teachers in their countries.

Yet certain schools demand "native speakers" — some fully aware of racial implications; others not knowing any better.

Some advertisements blatantly specify racial preferences: "British or Americans need only apply."

Furthermore, these schools often hire unqualified (and totally inadequate) foreign staff for the sake of their names: A Miss Jane Jones but not a Miss Welfare Hersheen.

I have seen these "natives" at work. Their spelling is often atrocious and their treatment of children is occasionally abominably harsh and unjust.

They have little or no understanding of our culture and attempt instead to impose a foreign and wholly undesirable one in the minds of our children.

Where, in other parts of the world, does this happen?

What, for heaven's sake, is wrong with speaking English with a slightly Arab accent?

The Spanish speak English with a Spanish accent. The French speak English with a French accent. I could go on forever. I am not suggesting that Arab speakers of English do master the language well. Obviously, they are far from mastering it well in the professional sense.

But I know one thing. Our lives don't depend on it. And one can still get their "b's" and "v's" wrong and survive.

You could also occasionally get a verb tense wrong and live to tell the tale. So what?

Ask these native speakers if they can pronounce the words "Khaled" or "Amman."

Haya Hassini

Hypocrisy

EVERYONE agrees that the reported hanging of U.S. Colonel Higgins in Lebanon is not exactly a human thing to do. But the world reaction to this affair has been even more appalling and extremely hypocritical. It is truly revolting to find that the so-called human-rights loving nations only consider Western lives as being human.

It is amazing to watch the world media reporting all these strongly-worded condemnations of the killing of one American as though no other lives count on their condemnation agenda. It is also bizarre how the Western officials and the media seem to forget the whole incident of the kidnapping of Sheikh Abdur Karim Obeid by Mossad agents. It is also strange to find that none of these nations try to understand the reasons behind such actions taken by frustrated groups of people who have been abused and oppressed for countless years as a result of foreign intervention.

I am not trying to justify the killing of Higgins, for it is an unquestionable act. I am only questioning the credibility of all those nations that condemn actions that are conducted only by certain groups or that only affect Western lives or property. If these countries feel so revolted by what happened to Higgins, then why don't we see similar reactions to thousands of other innocent lives that have not been spared? Aren't the children of Palestine, for example, considered human beings by those who show so much concern for Western life? Or don't these children count? The irony of the matter is that one cannot help but notice how the West lights even for animal rights, but when it comes to Palestinians ruthlessly being killed because they demand basic human rights, we don't hear any condemnations. And we certainly don't see any action taken by countries who feel so much remorse for the loss of human life. They should at least attempt to be genuine about their concern over everyone who faces injustice and brutal murder.



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The guilty verdict

By Gunnar Pettersson

THREE and a half years after Olof Palme was shot dead on a street in central Stockholm, the murderer has finally been brought to justice and found guilty. He is Karl Gustav Christer Pettersson, aged 42, an alcoholic and drug addict with a history of violence, antisocial behaviour and petty crime. As it happens, he rather looks the part too: tall, dark, frighteningly piercing eyes, a slight limp.

Of course, no one saw him do it. Nor did anyone actually see him with a gun in his hand, not even Lisbet Palme. And forensic evidence? Well, none, really — mainly because the murder weapon has never been found. And, no, he hasn't confessed — in fact, he still vehemently professes his innocence.

Never mind, after all this time the pieces in the puzzle finally fit together. At least with a few resolute shoves here and there. How did he do it? Shortly before 9 p.m. on February 28 1986, a dark and icy cold winter night, Christer Pettersson is on his way to score a few grams of amphetamine. He spots the Palmes going into the Grand cinema in central Stockholm and decides — for a reason still not known — to kill the Prime Minister. He manages to get hold of a .357 Magnum with armour-piercing ammunition, returns to the cinema and waits — in the most conspicuous place possible — for the Palmes to re-emerge after the performance. He limps after them down Sveavagen, shoots Olof Palme in the back, and lingers a short while before he leisurely jogs away. Finally, he disappears under the noses of 20 policemen, who happen to be positioned on or around the escape route, and takes the train home.

Not only that, he doesn't breathe a word about it during three years oscillating between alcoholic stupor and amphetamine bubble, spent in a social milieu where one man's word is another man's police reward. Shortly after his arrest, just before Christmas last year, the former Minister of Justice Anna-Greta Leijon — one of several political 'victims' of the Palme affair — gave a newspaper interview and commented that, "It would be such a relief if it turned out to be him!"

With Pettersson's conviction on July 27 it is easy to see why Mrs. Leijon, and many others, should now feel extremely relieved. Despite the rumours, speculations and conspiracy theories, the murder of Olof Palme was regarded with mixed feelings. From a human point of view, it seemed relatively little to ask, since she is, obviously, still under severe mental strain. However, taken together with her previous refusal to allow Pettersson's defence lawyer to be present at her identification of him, her attitude to the whole case, and to the legal process, seemed both arrogant and counter-productive.

Bearing in mind that the court was obliged to apply the principle of reasonable doubt, that a controversial, video-taped identity parade — held two days after Pettersson's arrest last year — would certainly seem an occasion for scepticism, at least. Not only was the defence excluded from it, but Pettersson was the only one in the line-up to wear distinct, light-coloured shoes, and he was the only demented among 11 beatiful-looking policemen. His low-life existence being already widely known, Lisbet Palme's first unfortunate comment on seeing the tape was, "Well, it's easy to see which one is the alcoholic, anyway."

Add to that the fact that she seemed to have constructed part of her description of the murderer to fit Pettersson — she mentioned, nothing about "piercing eyes" until she had seen him on the video tape — and it looked as though the prosecution's case had come to rest almost entirely on desperately wishful thinking.

Although the defence managed seriously to undermine the validity of her testimony — showing

morning and selling arms in the afternoon; nor about the powerful forces inside and outside the agencies of the state whose politics consist mainly of violent antipathy towards neutrality, immigrants and — for many years — Olof Palme himself.

However, Anna-Greta Leijon is probably too much of a politician not to realise that some people will always remain unfoiled. In a survey taken before the trial, 62 per cent of Swedes refused to believe in Pettersson's guilt.

With his conviction it is of course anyone's guess whether that number will have been reduced significantly. In most people's eyes, Pettersson certainly isn't someone you would invite to tea with your gran, but nor does he seem to amount to much more than a down-and-out who can't even nick a tin of bolognese sauce from the Co-op without getting caught, as happened a fortnight before he supposedly committed one of the most daring political assassinations this century. So, it ought to come as no surprise to anyone that there is now talk of a miscarriage of justice.

The trial began as farce, but soon switched to tragedy. It was bad enough that the case was built entirely on circumstantial evidence; worse that it rested to a large degree on three witnesses who promptly retracted their evidence in court and testified to undue pressure being put on them during police questioning — pressure, such as having the tantalising words "Fifty million kronor" (the official reward) repeatedly whispered in one's ear. Then, with the trial on the verge of disintegrating, Lisbet Palme dramatically entered the stage.

In a letter to the court, arriving the day before her scheduled appearance, she demanded that her testimony be given not only in camera, but without the defendant being present and without any form of video or tape recording — not even by the court, which had to rely solely on stenographers. Although most of her demands were met, Lisbet Palme's conduct was regarded with mixed feelings. From a human point of view, it seemed relatively little to ask, since she is, obviously, still under severe mental strain.

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A flame for Palme: immigrants to Sweden were victims of an ugly press campaign in 1986

her to have been confused to the point of hysteria in the minutes following the murder — the court felt able to dismiss all the doubts, arguably with the help of a large dose of wishful thinking of their own. In the end, Christer Pettersson was found guilty of the murder of Olof Palme on the technically questionable evidence of the "still profoundly traumatised" (her own words) widow, who claims she saw him twice at the scene of the crime and was convincingly shown to be mistaken about one of those occasions. This is the sum total of the evidence against Christer Pettersson.

If so, it would quite literally be the triumph of hope over experience, because the past three and a half years have been something of a further education in politics for many Swedes. It is sometimes called the "Italisation" of the Swedish society: a gradual and rather painful recognition of the fact that the running of an advanced democracy is largely a matter of maintaining semisecret networks of influence, that vital decisions are more often than not taken far away from the elected assemblies, and that honesty and integrity aren't necessarily the first things you associate with politicians, public prosecutors and policemen.

In the first weeks after the murder, the phrase "Sweden will never be the same again" was repeated, almost mantra-like, in the face of what seemed an uncertain and perilous future. In fact, it turned out to be quite true, although not in the way it was envisaged instead of the lawless streets came the lawless corridors of power, and with it increasing proneness to embarrassing accidents and sheer panic, interrupted only by Borgia-like lack of subtlety which had not been seen before.

The cynics will say that Christer Pettersson is too much of the perfect scapegoat for that ever to happen. From now on — and for a very long time — his face behind bars will serve as a comforting reminder of the due processes of the law whenever doubts are raised about what, exactly, all those policemen were doing in the area at the time of the murder. Or about the mysterious "Iran-Iraq documents" from February 1986, which not even the constitutional committee of the Swedish parliament is allowed to see. Or about the distortions, half-truths and outright lies emanating from the headquarters of the investigation whenever the trial seemed to lead away from politically acceptable suspects.

In that political-psychological sense, Christer Pettersson's role is not unlike that of Ake Gunnarsson's — another loner from the outskirts of ordered society, who was arrested only a few days after the murder. The evidence against Gunnarsson was equally thin, in fact non-existent, and it is now generally accepted that he was pulled in for no other reason than to provide everyone with peace of mind during Olof Palme's funeral the following

week. With the imminent burial of the investigation itself, it is hoped that the minds of most people will be equally troubled.

There is probably nothing conspiratorial in this doldrums of the investigation itself: it's simply that in the village atmosphere of the capital's political life, the Stockholm press tends to see an awful lot of trees where the rest of Swedish media have fewer difficulties in recognising a forest. With or without the aid of a critical press, though, Christer Pettersson's prospects certainly look bleak. Although the defence is said to have found another witness who can give him an alibi for the night of the murder — the first such witness was, controversially, dismissed as unreliable — the conviction looks likely to stand, since almost any alibi can be made to look unreliable after three and a half years. It is worth noting, however, that he was convicted on majority verdict, in which the two experienced judges dissented from the view of the six "lay assessors" making up the jury. With the nature of the Swedish Appeal Court system, involving a progressively larger proportion of professional jurists, there is a remote chance that the evidence will eventually be pronounced inadequate and Pettersson set free.

In meanwhile, back at the "Palme Squad" headquarters, the desks are being cleared, the bullet-proof windows (supplied, incidentally, by a police officer-turned-security consultant, who has himself been interviewed in connection with the murder) are being taken down and detectives are returning to their normal duties — leaving no more than a skeleton staff to keep an eye on the VDUS for any unexpected bleeps and to await the results (due in about two years' time) of test-shooting all the Smith & Wesson .357s licensed in Sweden. Who knows, perhaps Pettersson's fingerprints will turn up on one of them?

Sadly, that assessment must also include a large part of the Swedish media. If there is post-trial reckoning to be done, it is unlikely that there will be much to impress on the credit side of, especially, the Stockholm-based national press. "Uncredible" isn't quite the word. Most damaging has been the willingness, if not eagerness, to publish unfounded allegations, rumours and disinformation put out by various rival factions within the police and security services — most infamously in late 1986 during a particularly ugly press campaign against Kurdish immigrants, some of whom were suspected (wrongly as it turned out) of involvement in the murder.

But the question whether the tragicomedy of the last three and a half years can be ascribed to incompetence or intent, cockup or conspiracy, may not even be for the future to decide — The Guardian.

The winding-down of the Palme investigation will no doubt be accompanied by the outraged cries of a small band of dedicated conspiracy theorists and freelance investigators, but my guess is that a majority, despite recent experience, will greet it with a mixture of resignation and, indeed, relief — that Olof Palme is, finally, allowed to rest in peace and that Sweden remains, if not the same, at least as a passable version of itself.

"I think it's me ... the Imperial household must adapt to historical developments," Prince Mikasa, Akibito's uncle and at 74 the oldest male member of the Imperial family, recently said in a rare interview with the Yomiuri Shimbun, Japan's largest newspaper.

While still crown prince, Akibito shocked traditionalists in 1959 when he married a commoner. The marriage was warmly welcomed by the Japanese public.

The royal couple then broke with the past by raising their two sons and daughter by themselves.

Appropriate technology and feasible technology

By K.P. Sturmer

Appropriate Technology (AT) or Feasible Technology (FT), as IPI prefers to call it, is an attempt to adapt the scale and complexity of technology to perform necessary tasks, making the most of available human and economic resources. FT tries to be sensitive to the needs, desires and resources of those who will later use it. It is often considered as an alternative or a complement to the centralised technology of the industrialised world.

In recent years the image of AT has changed: the concept is now broader and more pragmatic. A growing number of advocates of AT have pointed out that while small may be beautiful in many ways, it is not always feasible.

In some areas it might be possible to scale down or decentralise a large technology, but dangerous to do away with it entirely. AT must include the principle of selectivity in developing a mix of large and small technologies to meet specific tasks and conditions.

In the last few years a growing number of appropriate technologists have come to regard themselves as pioneers operating at the frontiers of several areas of applied science. They argue that much of what is called appropriate or feasible technology is in fact a particular kind of advanced technology designed for coping with conditions where resources vary. In adapting to the current economic environment, for instance, AT seems to move efficient wood consumption (charcoal burners, distribution problems, prices etc.).

Economic growth

The problems of growth are a monumental challenge to human

ingenuity, in both the industrialised and the developing worlds. Both now have the opportunity to redress some of the perceived errors and wrongs of the past. These errors and wrongs may be categorised under four major headings:

A human definition of growth

The quality of life is as important as the quantity of material output; increased consumption of raw materials is not a satisfactory measure of human progress.

Sustainable growth

Sophisticated industrial economies must tackle the transition from production processes that exhaust resources and produce undesirable wastes to processes that use renewable or recycled resources.

Decentralised growth

The scale and geographical distribution of technology have to be adjusted to the actual distribution of needs.

Diversified growth

There is a need for a diverse mix of technologies, from which those best suited to the job and location in question can be selected.

K.P. Sturmer is Director of the Institute of Production Innovation at the University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. The abridged article is reprinted from the West German magazine, Gate.

Quiet breeze of change blows

through Japanese imperial palace

By Eric Talmadge
The Associated Press

TOKYO — A quiet breeze of change has been blowing through the Imperial palace since Emperor Akihito succeeded his father. But in a monarchy proud of its 1,200-year history, change doesn't come easily.

To most of the nation, Akihito remains a distant figure seen only through the bits and pieces of news gathered by a small group of reporters who cover the daily activities of the royal family from offices behind the Tokyo palace's moat and high stone walls.

However, for the past eight months, the public has seen the man on the crysanthemum throne portrayed in a much softer, more personable light than his enigmatic father. Hirohito.

"He is a more democratic person than his father was, because they were raised in a different era," said one palace reporter, who has covered both emperors.

"He really wants to get out among the people, and has surprised some attendants by suddenly changing his schedule to do so."

Meanwhile, back at the "Palme Squad" headquarters, the desks are being cleared, the bullet-proof windows (supplied, incidentally, by a police officer-turned-security consultant, who has himself been interviewed in connection with the murder) are being taken down and detectives are returning to their normal duties — leaving no more than a skeleton staff to keep an eye on the VDUS for any unexpected bleeps and to await the results (due in about two years' time) of test-shooting all the Smith & Wesson .357s licensed in Sweden.

Who knows, perhaps Pettersson's fingerprints will turn up on one of them?

The comparisons between Hirohito, who was revered as a god until the end of World War II, and Akihito, the first Japanese emperor to accede not as a deity but as a man, have dominated Akihito's reign.

On his first trip away from the capital, Akihito used a less regal form of speech when addressing a crowd and insisted on fewer uniformed guards along procession routes — though more plainclothes police were deployed.

The 55-year-old emperor reportedly even asked for the removal of a curtain separating himself and Empress Michiko from other passengers on a chartered flight to the tree-planting festival in late May.

Surrounding the emperor are a handful of chamberlains, personal doctors, nurses and ritualists.

Most of Hirohito's chamberlains continue to carry out palatial duties of some sort, and disagreements between the Akihito and Hirohito camps are not uncommon, the palace reporter said, requesting anonymity.

The chamberlains, themselves often descended from nobility or illustrious families, are known to oppose innovation, even by younger chamberlains. Many see themselves as the protectors of tradition.

Little change is expected in the



The Imperial Japanese family in front of the imperial palace. The late Emperor Hirohito is fourth from left (file photo).

Akihito was sent off to be reared by chamberlains at age 3.

More changes were expected after the Jan. 7 death of Hirohito, whose 62-year reign — the longest in Japanese history — covered a tumultuous period of history that many Japanese still struggle to understand. The country waged a disastrous war in Asia, suffered a humiliating defeat in 1945 and rose from the ashes of its bombed-out cities to become a modern economic superpower.

But the momentum of Imperial history makes it difficult for Akihito to make major changes in an institution that can trace its roots back to at least the 8th century and, by legend, to Emperor Jimmu in 660 B.C.

Akihito will give his first news conference, open to a select group of 50 foreign and Japanese reporters, on Friday, eight months after taking the throne.

Like his father, who met with the foreign and Japanese press in several such encounters, Akihito will answer only a set of questions submitted in advance and negotiated with palace officials for several weeks. The meeting is expected to last less than an hour and cover questions like those Hirohito accepted from reporters.

That constitution also put an end to state backing of Shinto, Japan's indigenous religion, which had been transformed from a kind of nature worship into an emperor-centered form of nationalism by a military government seeking to fuel its war machine.

But just before Hirohito's death, senior ritualists at Tobishima Maeda said the renunciation of divinity did not affect palace rites, and that Akihito's accession would not, either.

Since the revised constitution took effect, the ritualists have been the private employees of the emperor and are not paid by the government.

Meanwhile, fear of stirring up the state-religion controversy was delayed a government announcement on where another rite, the daijō-sai, will be held.

During that mystical ascension ride, scheduled for November 1990, Akihito is supposed to have his first communion with Amaterasu and then be reborn a god. News reports have said the daijō-sai could cost as much as 10 billion yen (\$70 million).

Tokyo apparently has been chosen for security reasons, but officials refuse to publicly rule out Kyoto, the ancient capital in western Japan where the imperial family resided for more than a millennium.

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Federal Reserve Board eases fears of recession in U.S.

WASHINGTON (R) — The Federal Reserve Board, the U.S. central bank, may have bailed the American economy back from the brink of a recession which loomed after years of sustained growth.

After reining in inflation earlier this year before it got out of control, the Fed appears to have relaxed its grip on credit just in time, according to a number of economists.

Figures released last week on employment and on home, car and department store sales suggest the economy is already responding to a decline in interest rates in June and July.

"What the data are telling us is that the slowdown in growth has pretty much bottomed out," Robert Chardross, chief economist of Lloyds Bank PLC in New York, said. "It's not a recession

scenario."

Bush administration officials still worry privately that Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan may have kept monetary policy too tight for too long in his fight to curb inflation, but in public they are happy with the economy.

"We believe the economy is growing on a modest, sustainable path that will lead to continued job creation consistent with controlling and reducing inflation," chief White House economist Michael Boskin said.

Whether the growth will be enough to satisfy the administration, which needs a vigorous economy to produce ample tax revenue, is another matter.

Many Wall Street economists, like the Fed, expect a growth rate of about 1.5 per cent in the next few quarters, while the White House has forecast 2.7 per cent

growth this year and 2.6 per cent in 1990.

"The way matters are evolving, it's as though the Fed wrote the script," said Norman Robertson, chief economist of Pittsburgh's Mellon Bank. "It's a remarkable tribute to Alan Greenspan."

Thoughts of recession, spurred by recent disappointing economic indicators, all but vanished with Friday's strong employment report for July.

A total of 169,000 jobs were created and June's figure was revised up by 70,000 to 250,000. Employment in the subdued manufacturing and construction sectors rebounded last month, the work week lengthened and average earnings increased.

The Labour Department's index of manufacturing employment showed that more than half the 143 industries surveyed hired

EURO zones tight timetable for water, power sell-off

LONDON (R) — The British government's ambitious plans to privatise the water and electricity utilities runs overcomes potential serious hurdles if the multi-billion dollar sales are to go through on schedule.

The Water Industry of England and Wales is to be sold to the public in November for up to £7 billion (\$11 billion) and the £25 billion (\$340 billion) electricity privatisation is due to begin early next year.

But stock market analysts believe the government will have to work hard if it is to complete the first stage of its wide-ranging privatisation programme in time for the next general election, which must be called by June.

"It would complicate the difficult task one analyst, "they are considerable."

Energy Minister Margaret Thatcher's government has failed to pump about £5 billion (\$10 billion) into the water industry

more workers last month, the highest figure since March.

"The industrial sector has stopped contracting," Jeffrey Leeds, managing director of Chemical Bank in New York, said. He expects gross national product to expand at a two per cent rate in the second half of 1989.

The evidence of a rebound on the demand side of the economy is less conclusive.

Stephen Slifer, an economist with Shearson Lehman Hutton Inc in New York, said that consumption after adjusting for inflation fell in May and June. In nominal terms it probably rose only 0.3 per cent in July.

The demand-side components point to just 0.5 per cent growth this quarter, whereas production statistics implied by the employment report suggest three per cent growth.

Electricity generating and distributing companies.

Protracted negotiations have still to produce an electricity pricing formula that will encourage the growth of new, independent power generating companies while still allowing the former state-owned generating facilities stay in business after the share flotation.

New generating companies can take advantage of relatively cheap, modern technology, while the state-owned sector is saddled with the cost of decommissioning old plants and bringing some power stations up to higher environmental standards.

But while the path to privatisation may not be easy, analysts believe the government is prepared to make financial sacrifices to achieve its political goals.

"The water industry showed that there is the political will," said one analyst, "who asked not to be named, "they can push these things through."

try to help pay off its debts and meet the cost of complying with higher standards of water purity demanded by the European Community.

But the water industry estimates the cost of meeting EC standards could be as high as £15 billion (\$24 billion).

Financial plans for the water industry are based on its being allowed to meet the new quality standards by 1995, rather than 1993 as demanded by the EC.

If it is forced by the Community to bring in the changes sooner rather than later, the privatisation timetable may be affected, according to analysts who see two options.

The government may have to inject further capital into the industry to help it meet a shorter investment timetable. Or each water authority could be forced to rewrite financial plans appearing in the prospectuses for the sale. This would likely delay the flotation.

The privatisation aroused considerable unpopularity even before the announcement in late July that the water companies would be allowed to impose big price rises after privatisation.

The huge electricity sell-off, involving the restructuring of the whole industry, could run into snags over the dismantling of old nuclear power stations and the details of contracts between elec-

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Wage demands spark concern in Europe

LONDON (R) — A sliding dollar and lower world oil prices have taken the sting out of inflation in Western Europe but economists say the threat of excessive wage demands will prevent a rapid decline in interest rates.

Despite a steady fall in U.S. interest rates and growing optimism among economic forecasters that the European inflation cycle may be near its peak, monetary authorities are expected to continue their credit squeeze through the summer.

"From a short-term point of view, we may have seen a peak in inflation," said Mark Cliffe, chief economist at Nomura Research Institute in London.

"But monetary authorities are concerned the underlying rate of inflation, and particularly labour costs, could creep up."

The note of caution was hammered home at the mid-July summit of leading industrial democracies in Paris where leaders spoke in their communiqué of the need for continued vigilance in the fight against inflation.

Britain and West Germany, emphasising price dangers far more than the United States, where the desire not to stall economic growth has now taken priority, have given no hint of relaxing their tight monetary policies.

Monetary officials in Europe display a growing sense of relief that price pressures from abroad are moderating but say the key to controlling inflation now lies in preventing a further twist to the spiral from wage demands at home.

A surge in import prices, caused mainly by the dollar's rally earlier this year and a sharp rise in the cost of oil, has begun to abate, suggesting that at least external factors fueling inflation now pose less of a threat.

That is starting to show up in statistics, with inflation in the 12-nation European Community (EC) steady at an average year-on-year rate of 5.4 per cent in June.

Credit Suisse first Boston economist Jonathan Hoffman argues that provisional price data showing West Germany's July inflation rate at 3.2 per cent could be revised below three per cent when final figures come through next week.

He forecasts that the Consumer Price Index could fall back to 2.5 to 2.6 per cent by January when, for statistical reasons, ex-

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ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Iran to set up ship yard at Bushehr

NICOSIA (R) — Iran's Marine Industrial Company is to establish a yard to build ships and drilling rigs at the southern port city of Bushehr within the next 20 months, the Iranian News Agency (IRNA) reported. It said the yard would be set up in cooperation with an unnamed Finnish company at a cost of nine billion rials (about \$120 million). IRNA quoted an official of the Iranian company as saying the yard would be capable of building and repairing ships of up to 6,000 tons. Its first contracts would involve drilling rigs of around 8,000 tonnes, he said.

Mexican concessions won't be repeated

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP) — Citibank President John Reed has said that concessions made by creditor banks in an accord with Mexico won't be repeated for other debtor countries. The U.S. banker made his comments at a Chilean-American Chamber of Commerce meeting. He is on a tour of several Latin American countries, including Venezuela, which is seeking a refinancing of its debt. He said he is being asked if other countries will get the same kind of relief that Mexico received, which included a 35 per cent reduction in its obligations and \$2.3 billion in fresh credit. "It was a plan especially for Mexico," he said. "Personally, I don't believe there will be another of this type. Really, there won't be another. There are certain things that were done in that case which I don't think the banks will do again. We have learned that they are very difficult transactions," Reed said. He said the accord record the abandoning of about \$12 billion in claims by creditor banks, "and that comes directly from the banks' shareholders." About 30 per cent of the loss in earnings was absorbed by U.S. banks and the rest by European and Japanese banks, he said.

Polish trains stop in pay dispute

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — State rail workers in southwest Poland idled passenger and freight trains for one hour Saturday, the latest in a series of strikes for raises to counter the country's triple-digit inflation. Meanwhile, newly elected Prime Minister Czeslaw Kiszczak met with several representatives from the opposition Solidarity movement as he tried to assemble a government to deal with the critical economic situation. And new Communist Party Chief Mieczyslaw Rakowski met with party activists from the army and urged them to be proud of the party, and defend it against "demagogic attacks." The noontime rail stoppage affected all domestic rail traffic in the Silesia region, except for certain trains taking children to summer camp, according to reports on the official media and from the Solidarity Information Service. State television said about 80 trains, serving Wroclaw, Katowice, Opole, Czestochowa and other cities in the region, were stopped. The strike was supported both by the Solidarity and the official Communist-controlled trade unions. According to Jan Renda, leader of a strike committee in Katowice, workers now receive only 50,000 zlotys (\$60) a month in basic pay, although they also receive overtime and various differentials and bonuses. The rail workers demanded that basic monthly pay be more than doubled.

Domestic consumption to spur Seoul

SEOUL (R) — South Korea is turning to domestic consumers to spur its economy because exports could fall short of government expectations, the deputy trade minister has said. Kim Chul-Su told reporters trading firms would be lucky to realise the government's forecast of \$68 billion worth of exports this year, revised downward in June from \$70 billion. "It will be difficult to achieve \$68 billion in exports," Kim said, adding that July's customs-cleared export growth was the lowest in two years. Exports in July were a provisional \$5.24 billion from \$5.2 billion in the same 1988 period, while exports expanded to \$5.14 billion from \$4.49 billion last year. Economic planners said appreciation of the South Korean won from early last year, wage increases and falling investment in export-oriented firms were to blame. Kim said rising demand for imported consumer goods in the first six months of this year reflected a changing economic scene — imports of consumer goods rose a dramatic 33.3 per cent while capital goods and raw materials saw a respective 14.5 and 21.6 per cent rise.

U.S. in first debt-for-nature deal

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Agency for International Development (USAID) has announced the U.S. government's first participation in buying up Third World debt so that the money can be used in preserving the debtor country's environment. The \$1 million grant will help the government of Madagascar, the big island republic off the east coast of Africa. It has an estimated 150,000 species of plants and animals found only in Madagascar. This is the first "debt-for-nature" deal in Africa. There have been eight earlier swaps, most of them in Latin America. The World Wildlife Fund, which has taken part in most of them, estimates that they will relieve the debtor countries of \$27 million worth of debt. Rep. John Porter, who has helped arrange the deals, told reporters that they will not solve the Third World's debt problem, but show how far conservation can be encouraged by use of it. The World Bank estimates total Third World debt at \$1.3 trillion. Leon Rajaobela, Madagascar's ambassador in Washington, said his country owes \$2.5 billion. Sen. Robert W. Kasten Jr. said the next step is to get the World Bank and other international banks owned by governments to take part in future deals.

ARCO reports big oil find in Alaska

LOS ANGELES (R) — Atlantic Richfield Co (ARCO) said Friday a new well being tested in Alaska is the largest found in the United States since 1982. Tests on the Point McIntyre Well, two miles (three kilometres) north of the Alaskan oil centre of Prudhoe Bay, showed oil flowing at a generous rate of 5,400 barrels a day, underscoring Alaska's importance to U.S. self-sufficiency in energy. The Point McIntyre find is the nation's largest since the Point Pecos Field was found off California in 1982 and the largest discovery since the Endicott Field in 1978, said Sudan Andrews, spokeswoman for ARCO's Alaska unit. Daily output of Alaskan oil is about two million barrels, representing about one-quarter of U.S. domestic output. An ARCO spokesman said preliminary tests indicated a high recovery rate, which could ultimately reach about 300 million barrels during the life of the well.

Hong Kong banks cut deposit rates

HONG KONG (AP) — Hong Kong's leading banks announced Friday they would lower their prime lending rate half a percentage point to 10 per cent, effective Monday. Interest paid on savings accounts and all deposits also were lowered half a percentage point across the board. The Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank and Standard Chartered Bank, the colony's two note-issuing banks, announced the change in the prime rate. The Hong Kong Association of Banks, which represents all other commercial banks, disclosed the changes in deposit rates. The move marks the third prime-rate cut in less than two months. Banks last cut their rate on July 10 from 11 per cent to 10.5 per cent. Hong Kong's prime lending rate, on what banks charge their top customers, stands at its lowest level since mid-February.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

		Sunday, August 6, 1989	
		Central Bank official rates	
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Heavy monsoons and unruly rivers have always been an annual event in many Asian countries. Photo shows a mother cleaning her house while her children holds an umbrella to shield themselves from a leaking roof.

Fresh floods hit Bangladesh

DHAKA (Agencies) — Eight more people have drowned, bringing the death toll to nearly 200, and half a million people have been stranded by floods in northeast Bangladesh, according to officials.

In the worst-hit Zakiganj district 200,000 people were marooned.

Other areas flooded by the rain-swollen Kushtia river included the Balaganj, Fenchuganj and Baniabazar areas of the tea-growing Sylhet district.

The courage of the people and the sincerity of the government helped us survive a much worse flooding last year. We shall face it boldly this year too, "President Hossain Mohamad Ershad said during a visit to Zakiganj Saturday.

State television showed the president travelling on a military vessel and reassuring marooned villagers that no one would starve or die for lack of medical care.

More than 5,000 people took

shelter in makeshift camps but local officials said food and other supplies were inadequate.

"Dozens of remote villages have been cut off for days with people trapped in houses waist or shoulder-deep in water," one official said. Shortages of drinking water have caused many to come down with diarrhoea in some of the stricken areas, he added.

The flood control centre in Dhaka said more than 100,000 people were driven from their homes by the floods in 11 northern and central districts.

Floods in 1988, the worst for 40 years, killed at least 3,000, made millions homeless and destroyed three million tonnes of rice.

News reports reaching Dhaka said at least 200 people died in the latest floods and related incidents in the area during the past two weeks.

The government has sent 12 medical teams to Zakiganj.

Quebec issue' back in Canadian politics

MONTREAL (AP) — The Quebec issue in Canadian politics, thought to be diminishing since provincial voters rejected separation nearly a decade ago, has returned.

A recent Gallup Poll that sent shock waves rumbling across the country found that 28 per cent of Canadians believe French-speaking Quebec should become an independent country.

The outcome, according to Gallup, was the strongest support for separation nationally since the company's pollsters first asked the question more than 20 years ago.

Perhaps the most startling finding from the 1,034 Canadians polled was that 27 per cent of English-speaking Canadians favoured the province's separation. The level of support for separation among French-speaking Canadians was 36 per cent.

There long has been resentment in parts of English-speaking Canada, especially in the West, of what is perceived as favouritism or special treatment for Quebec. But the percentage of those who would just as soon see it leave had not been perceived to be that high.

"The heartbeat of the nation is strong, it's vigorous and it's resolved to even greater unity," Prime Minister Brian Mulroney.

20 years after the murders, Manson case still casts a spell

By Matthew Heller
Reuter

LOS ANGELES — Twenty years after the Tate-La Bianca murders shocked the world, devil worshippers have not forgotten Charles Manson.

The flood of mail that he receives in his jail cell every week includes letters from satanists who idolise one of America's most notorious killers.

Two decades later, Stephen Kay, one of the prosecutors who convicted Manson and others of the Tate-La Bianca murders, relives the case every time he argues against releasing one of the killers on parole.

"To me, it doesn't seem to have happened that long ago," he said.

The awful memories also

readily come back to Doris Tate, mother of the most famous victim, actress Sharon Tate, every time she counsels other parents of murdered children.

"I relieve the case but at the same time I realise how important it is for these people to fight," she said.

The murderous two-day rampage through Los Angeles also casts a spell well beyond those personally involved in the case. For some, it stands out like some bloody exclamation mark at the end of the 1960s.

"This is looked at as the most famous case in U.S. criminal history," Kay said in an interview. "It's a case that seems to capture the imagination not only of American people."

54 killed in 2 days in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO (R) — Fifty-four people, including a senior Buddhist monk, have been killed in Sri Lanka in the past two days by left-wing rebels and pro-government militia, military sources said Sunday.

The sources said Pokuri Banda Hemaloka — chief priest of a temple at Pataltambat, 120 kilometres north of Colombo — was the second Buddhist monk to be killed by the leftist people's Liberation Front (JVP). They could give no reason for the killing.

The front Thursday shot dead a 72-year-old priest who praised President Ranasinghe Premadasa

last week for averting a confrontation with India on the withdrawal of Indian troops.

The JVP, through a campaign of killings and general strikes, is trying to wrest power from Premadasa's government.

It is also vehemently opposed to the presence of 45,000 Indian troops there to implement an agreement with the government in the Tamil-dominated north and east. Colombo has recently put pressure on New Delhi to withdraw the troops.

A government statement said the killings by subversives — a reference to the front — occurred across the island. Most of the

victims were local government officials and supporters.

The military sources said pro-government groups were responsible for killing 10 JVP supporters in southern and central provinces Saturday night.

"Their bodies were found on the roadside," one source said.

Opposition groups have accused the government of using underground groups to hunt the front.

At a special meeting Monday, Premadasa will meet his ministers to discuss the outcome of failed talks with New Delhi on the pullout of Indian troops.

Soviet miners return to work

MOSCOW (AP) — Coal miners who walked off their jobs because they lacked a copy of newly won government concessions returned to work Sunday, once the document was delivered, TASS reported.

The official Soviet news agency said all mines and associated coal facilities of the Arctic Vorkuta region resumed work at midnight.

Miners in 11 of the Pechora coal basin's 13 mines about 1,800 kilometres northeast of Moscow walked off their jobs Saturday in a renewal of the labour unrest that wracked the Soviet Union last month.

The miners agreed at a meeting Friday night to stay off the job until they receive the full text

of a government decree that Soviet officials say fulfills the promises they made to get the miners to return to work.

After the earlier round of strikes, the government agreed to bonuses for night work and miners using air hammers, improvements in pensions and overtime, and made general pledges to improve housing and end food and consumer good shortages.

An instructor in the organisational department of the local Communist Party headquarters said in a telephone interview that a director of the state-run enterprise that operates all 13 mines "have a vast understanding of the way I think." "They are by chemical composition, more emotional, so they tend to be a little bit more compassionate, very work-oriented," he said. "I think women strive very hard to show that they certainly can carry on any endeavour that a man can. So I only benefit by being surrounded by these kinds of people." Stallone says he has pretty much recovered from his divorce from Nielsen and isn't trying to avoid any new commitment. "What comes along, I mean I care what really, what else is there?"

Column 8

Stallone hasn't found Mrs. Right

NEW YORK (AP) — Sylvester Stallone says he isn't trying to avoid romantic commitments because of his failed marriage to Brigitte Nielsen. He just hasn't found the right woman. "I mean something like Sister Mary Theresa and Madam Curie and uh... Irma La Douce, a little bit of everything," the actor said in an interview. Stallone says he appreciates women because they "have a vast understanding of the way I think." "They are by chemical composition, more emotional, so they tend to be a little bit more compassionate, very work-oriented," he said. "I think women strive very hard to

show that they certainly can carry on any endeavour that a man can. So I only benefit by being surrounded by these kinds of people." Stallone says he has pretty much recovered from his divorce from Nielsen and isn't trying to avoid any new commitment. "What comes along, I mean I care what really, what else is there?"

Onassis inspires walking tour

NEW YORK (AP) — Fans of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis can troop 3.2 kilometres Sunday night to the building where she lives, church where she has worshipped and even the supermarket where her staff buys groceries.

"She was always a popular stop on our celebrity homes tour," said Sam Stafford, founder of the sidewalk of New York. He decided an all-Jackie walking tour was merited because of her 60th birthday and the new book about her.

Other venues will include

Onassis's florist, drugstore, bank and favourite shops; the Carlyle hotel, where president John F. Kennedy allegedly had trysts with Marilyn Monroe; the Pierre Hotel, where Aristotle Onassis kept a suite; and the homes of his daughter, Caroline Kennedy Schlossberg, and other relatives. Stafford did exhaustive research.

Singer blames job for bad family life

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — John Cougar Mellencamp blames his music career for his unstable family life. "I need to get out of this business for a while," said the Indiana-born singer, who has been in entertainment 14 years. "I've been beating my head against the wall since I was 23."

"I've got no family, no self-respect — I've put everything into the rock 'n' roll business. And I don't think they're going to give me a crown for it in heaven either," he said. Mellencamp, who has been divorced once and has three daughters, discussed his marital problems involving his current wife, Vicki, in a recent interview. Mellencamp and Vicki are separated.

School board unsure of Lowe

LOS ANGELES (AP) — School board members aren't sure they want actor Rob Lowe giving anti-drug lectures in classrooms under a court-ordered community-service sentence. "We will want a guarantee for the parents of our children that children are protected," said Los Angeles Unified School District Board President Jackie Goldberg.

Dhlakama and the church delegation arrived in Nairobi late last week. They were originally scheduled to meet in Kenya's capital last month, but Dhlakama had to show up.

The government representatives, Protestant and Catholic members of the Mozambique Christian council, were said to be carrying a 12-point peace plan from Chissano, but details of Dhlakama would not talk directly with the church leaders.

In announcing his trip to Nairobi, Mugabe said the purpose was to "compare notes" with Moi on their joint initiative to end the war which has killed an estimated 100,000 people, made refugees of another 1.6 million and destroyed Mozambique's economy.

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